

# Deer Creek Dam called safe

By Leo Perry

Deseret News staff writer

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PROVO — The expected heavy runoff this spring poses no threat to the long-term stability or the operation of Deer Creek Dam and Reservoir, P. Kirt Carpenter said Tuesday.

"There has been general concern over the threat of flooding," Carpenter, manager of the Bureau of Reclamation's Utah projects office, said. "That concern has led some persons to wonder what effect there might be on the facilities at Deer Creek," he said.

"There will be no effect on Deer Creek Reservoir," Carpenter said. "The operation of Deer Creek is moni-

tored 24 hours a day and the facilities are regularly inspected. It has been consistently rated as a safe dam and there are no known safety problems," he said.

Carpenter said Deer Creek is designed to hold a maximum of 152,700 acre-feet of water. Its outlet works, to which a power-generating facility was added in 1958, allows the operator to release up to 1,500 cubic feet of water per second from the reservoir. A maximum of 12,000 cubic feet per second can also be bypassed through the spillway, he said.

The project's manager said that it is when releases

See DAM on U-2

## Dam

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exceed 1,500 cubic feet per second that there is a risk of causing erosion and other flood-related damage below the reservoir.

"There may not be high potential for flooding on Provo River this year if we consider the most recent available data," Carpenter said.

Although runoff levels are higher due to the saturated ground, snowpack levels on those drainages that feed into Deer Creek are only slightly higher than average for this time of year and are among the lowest in Utah, he said.

Hugh McKellar, superintendent of the Provo River Water Users Association, which operates Deer Creek, indicates that capacity will be maintained in the reservoir in order to

reduce peak flows to manageable levels in order to protect project facilities downstream, Carpenter said.

"This will have the effect of minimizing potential flooding all along the river," he said.

The dam and reservoir were completed under direction of the Bureau of Reclamation in 1941 in response to the drought of 1931-35 when water stored in Utah Lake fell from 850,000 to 20,000 acre-feet, more than 12 feet below compromise level.

Provo and the other communities in Utah County, along with Salt Lake City, joined with irrigation interests to sponsor the project. It has provided municipal and industrial and irrigation water and recreation benefits ever since, Carpenter said.

attorney to the company indicating contract violations.

The council considered an ordinance to increase the speed limit from 20 mph to 35 mph in two areas: Seventh East between Main and 50 North and on Seventh North between Seventh East and Ninth East.

Several area homeowners said raising the speed limit could lead to more accidents and would increase danger to children.

The council agreed to maintain the 20 mph speed limit in the first area and will consider the speed change request in the second area after a police study.

A proposed fire protection agreement with Utah County was tabled pending further review.

A resolution designating the redevelopment survey area in downtown American Fork was approved by the council.

est Service will allow a special use permit for Heritage Mountain.

That permit will allow the developers build the resort, but the Forest Service will still be involved in approving buildings during construction.

Developers have met all but one condition, the financing, placed on them by the City Council and Planning Commission, before the final approval can be given.

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## MICHAEL MORRIS

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